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**MEDIA  
RELEASE**

**FIRST SURGERIES COMPLETED AT NEW VA SURGICAL CENTER**

*Lebanon VA Medical Center Continues to Build on Reputation of Excellence and Quality*

**For Immediate Release**

LEBANON – March 16, 2015 –

The first surgeries in the new state-of-the-art Surgical Center at Lebanon VA Medical Center were completed today. The first surgery was a total hip replacement for a 43 year old female Veteran. The second surgery was a total knee replacement for a 63 year old male Veteran. Various endoscopies are scheduled for the rest of the day.

The new \$9.8 million dollar, 21,000 square feet center is designed to meet Lebanon's increasing surgical work load. The facility includes 4 large operating rooms, 2 endoscopy suites, 1 procedure room, 16 pre-operative and post-operative rooms, and 2 rooms engineered for isolation management. Currently, VA surgeons perform more than 4,000 surgeries a year at the local facility. Lebanon VAMC has become a surgical referral site for other VA facilities regionally.

Lebanon VA Medical Center Director and CEO, Robert W. Callahan, Jr. stated, "Our strategic efforts to create a Veteran-centric, technologically advanced surgical center for Veterans in South Central is complete. Pennsylvania Veterans will continue to receive extraordinary care in some of the most advanced operating rooms in the Veterans Health Administration. I am very proud of our teams and their dedication to excellence." US Army National Guard Surgeon, Combat Veteran, and Associate Chief of Staff, Carl Reese, MD added, "This is an exciting new chapter in the history of Lebanon VA Medical Center. This new facility is designed around Veteran patients and their families. The new facility greatly expands access to quality surgical care in our area in a world class environment. As a VA employee, I want to provide the very best care and that's what our healthcare team is doing here."

The new Surgery Center nearly doubles the former surgical space at south central Pennsylvania's leading Veteran-centric healthcare facility. It is the culmination of years of design, planning, and building. Two former VA employees, Mr. Leonard Washington, former Director and Chief Executive Officer of Lebanon VA Medical Center and Dr. George Maish, M.D., former Chief of Surgery at Lebanon VA Medical Center, were the visionaries who spearheaded the design and creation of the surgical center. Both men were honored at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility in November.

Lebanon VA Medical Center is one of 152 medical centers across the United States which is dedicated to serving the unique needs of America's Veterans. The VA is the largest health care system in the country, using state of the art technology to improve the health of Veterans from every generation. If you are Veteran, you may be eligible to receive care and benefits from the VA. To learn more, call 717-228-6000.

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